

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 366
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AMCONSUL ADANA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL IZMIR IMMEDIATE

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DEPARTMENT ALSO PASS NSC FOR DR BRZEZINSKI AND WHITE HOUSE
FOR MR POWELL

ATHENS ALSO PASS TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE GOT PRIMIN
BULENT ECEVIT HELD FOR AMERICAN JOURNALISTS TRAVELING
WITH US SECSTATE VANCE'S PARTY MORNING SAT 21 JAN.
CONFERENCE WAS CONDUCTED ENTIRELY IN ENGLISH.

(BEGIN TRANSCRIPT)

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: I'M VERY HAPPY TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY
TO MEET WITH YOU EVEN IF BRIEFLY, NOT ONLY AS THE PRIME
MINISTER, BUT AS A JOURNALIST. I SHALL NOT TAKE UP TOO MUCH
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OF YOUR TIME WITH INITIAL REMARKS. I SHALL SAY A FEW
INTRODUCTORY WORDS ABOUT OUR TALKS WITH MR CYRUS VANCE,
AND THEN YOU MAY HAVE QUEESTIONS, AND I SHALL TRY TO ANSWER
THEM.

I WAS VERY HAPPY TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF WELCOMING
MR CYRUS VANCE, SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF

AMERICA, AND HIS DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUES SOON AFTER OUR NEW GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. THIS HAS GIVEN US AN OPPORTUNITY OF DISCUSSING MANY MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN WITH OUR FRIEND AND ALLY, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH MR VANCE YESTERDAY EVENING AND THIS MORNING HAVE PROVIDED AN OCCASION FOR A USEFUL AND FRIENDLY REVIEW OF THE WORLD SITUATION IN GENERAL AND OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS IN PARTICULAR. THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN OF AN EXPLORATORY NATURE; WE DECIDED THAT THERE SHOULD BE A FOLLOWUP ON THESE DISCUSSIONS TO EXAMINE OUR JOINT PROBLEMS, OR PROBLEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST TO BOTH COUNTRIES, IN GREATER DEPTH AND DETAIL WITHOUT MUCH DELAY. THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO SAY AS INITIAL REMARKS.

Q: MR PRIME MINISTER, WHEN YOU DESCRIBE IT AS A EXPLORATORY DISCUSSION, DOES THAT MEAN THAT TURKEY ISN'T PREPARED TO MOVE ON CYPRUS?

A: WELL, CYPRUS DIDN'T COME UP AS ONE OF THE PRIMANRY TOPICS OF OUR DISCUSSIONS. WE DWELT MOSTLY ON BILATERAL PROBLEMS, AND AS YOU PROBALLY KNOW, MY GOVERNMENT DIS-SOCIATES THE TWO ISSUES: THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND THE BILATERAL ISSUES, PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. WE DID CERTAINLY DWELL UPON THE CYPRUS ISSUE AND THE AEGEAN, WHICH IS VERY VITALLY IMPORTANT FOR US, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBAL PROBLEMS, WHICH ARE OF IMPORTANCE TO BOTH COUNTRIES.

Q. WELL, IF I MAY FOLLOW UP, CONGRESS DOESN'T DISSOCIATE,
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CONGRESS HAS CONDITIONED AID TO TURKEY ON PROGRESS ON CYPRUS. MAY I ASK YOU IF YOUR'RE CONSIDERING RENEGOTIATING--IF THAT'S THE WORD--OR REVISING THE MILITARY AID PACKAGE WHICH IS STILL TIED UP IN CONGRESS.

Q: THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT...

Q: THE BASES AGREEMENT....

A: OF COURSE, WE CANNOT DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDE, THE CONGRESS'S LINKING THE CYPRUS ISSUE AND OUR BILATERAL PROBLEMS WITH THE UNITED STATES. BUT IN THE MIND OF OUR GOVERNMENT, THE CYPRUS QUESTION AND THE AEGEAN RPBLEMS SHOULD NOT CONCERN ANY OTHER COUNTRY, AT LEAST BEYOND THE DEGREE THAT IT IS OC CONCERN TO THE WORLD AT LARGE. REGARDING IT, I HAVE ALREADY STATED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, BEFORE WE TOOK OVER AND AFTER WE TOOK OVER AS GOVERNMENT, THAT WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE THE TURKISH CYPRIOT ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN COMING UP WITH COMPLETE PROPOSALS WHICH WE HOPE WILL FACILITATE A DEFINITIVE SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS ISSUE. AND I CAN TELL YOU AFTER MY TALKS WITH PRESIDENT DENKTAS THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY THAT WE ARE IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH HIM ON THIS ISSUE. WE ARE DECIDED TO TAKE THIS APPROACH NOT BECAUSE WE ARE EXPECTED TO BY OTHER COUNTRIES, BUT BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IT IS IN THE

INTEREST OF TURKEY, OF THE CYPRIOTS AS A WHOLE, AND OF PEACE.
REGARDING THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN TURKEY
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, MY GOVERNMENT IS
AGREED IN PRINCIPLE THAT IF POSSIBLE THE STAGNANT RELATIONS
BETWEEN AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TURKEY
SHOULD BE REVITALIZED, IF POSSIBLE, AND THAT (INAUDIBLE...OUR
COOPERATION IN MANY FOELDS, NOT ONLY MILITARY BUT ECONOMIC. WE
DISSOCIATE SEVERAL THINGS, BUT WE DO NOT DISSOCIATE MILITARY
PREPAREDNESS FROM THE ECONOMIC SITUATION VERY MUCH. HO
WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH
COUNTRIES TO REVITALIZE, IF POSSIBLE, THE COOPERATION IN
MANY AREAS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.
HOWEVER, NEARLY TWO YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE
DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT, AND WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL,
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WORTHWHILE, TO DISCUSS WITH MR VANCE WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE IN
THE WORLD: WHAT NEW REQUIREMENTS IN TURKEY'S DEFENSE OR THE
CONTRIBUTION EXPECTED FROM TURKEY FOR COLLECTIVE DEFENSE
HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE MEANTIME. THIS NEED NOT BE RELATED
TO THE WRITTEN TEXT OF THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT,
BUT THESE ARE FACTORS WHICH OUGHT TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERA-
TION. AND AFTER ALL, SINCE THE SIGNING OF THAT AGREEMENT,
THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATION IN THE UNITED
STATES AND A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT MORE RECENTLY IN TURKEY.
ALL THESE SHOULD BE WORTH SUFFICIENT REASON TO MAKE US TO
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COME TOGETHER AND DISCUSS THE CHANGING WORLD SITUATION.

Q: MR PRIME MINISTER, DID YOU DISCUSS WITH MR VANCE THE
POSSIBILITY OF TURN TO THIS AREA BY MR CLIFFORD OR ANY
OTHER AMERICAN?

A: NO, WE DIDN'T DISCUSS IT, BUT WE DECIDED--WE DIDN'T
DISCUSS THE PARTICULARS, BUT WE DECIDED THAT WE WOULD HAVE
TO FOLLOWUP WITHOUT LOSING MUCH TIME ON OUR DISCUSSIONS.
Q: I'D LIKE TO CONTINUE ON THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT.

AS I UNDERSTAND IT, YOU WOULD LIKE IN EFFECT TO REVISE THE
CONDITIONS, BUT NOT THE LETTER, OF THE DOCUMENT WHICH IS
NOW IN THE HANDS OF CONGRESS.

A: WE DIDN'T GO INTO THE COMPLETE DETAILS AND METHODS. I
MEAN IT WHEN I SAID THIS HAS BEEN AN EXPLORATORY TALK. WE
TALKED ABOUT THE CHANGING SITUATIONS AND CONDITIONS, AND I
THINK WE ALL AGREED--I HAVE THE FEELING THAT WE ARE
ALL AGREED--WE HAD TO CONSIDER THE NEW FACTORS THAT HAVE
EMERGED. THIS MAY RELATE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY TO THE
DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT; IT'S A DIFFERENT MATTER.
WE HAVEN'T TAKEN UP THE MATTERS AT SUCH A COMPLETE LEVEL.

Q: WHAT FACTORS HAVE CHANGED?

A: WELL, FOR INSTANCE, I CAN GIVE YOU SOME VERY CONCRETE
EXAMPLES. SINCE THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT ENVISAGES
SOME LIMITED AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION IN MATERIAL TERMS,
FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL TERMS TO OUR MILITARY COOPERATION.
NOW THE VALUE OF THIS AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION HAS OBVIOUSLY
CHANGED DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS. THE VALUE OF THE DOLLAR
ITSELF HAS CHANGED, AND THE VALUE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT
HAS BEEN INCREASED. THAT'S ALL, I THINK, APART FROM THE
CHANGING WORLD CONDITIONS.

Q: AND WOULD TURKEY LIKE TO CO-PRODUCE SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT
THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN SUPPLYING?

A: WELL, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I'M NOT PREPARED AT THE MOMENT
TO GO INTO SUCH CONCRETE DETAILS BECAUSE WE HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE

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UP THE DETAILS IN THE FOLLOWUP DISCUSSIONS.

Q. DID YOU GET THE IMPRESSION FROM MR. VANCE THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WILL AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE ASK THE CONGRESS TO EITHER LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO OR MOVE THAT AGREEMENT THROUGH THE CONGRESS WITH NO STRINGS?

A. I DID GET THE IMPRESSION THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HOPES THERE WILL BE SOMETIME IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT TO BE TAKEN UP IN THE CONGRESS. I AM GLAD THAT YOU MENTIONED THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT AND THE EMBARGO QUESTION SEPARATELY. WE WOULD LIKE TO SEPARATE THE TWO ISSUES, BECAUSE THE EMBARGO IS A NEGATIVE ELEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS. THE DEFENSE COOPERATION ACT IS, ON THE OTHER HAND, A POSITIVE POSSIBILITY. IT WOULD BE EASIER TO ACHIEVE POSITIVE POSSIBILITIES IF INITIALLY THE NEGATIVE FACTORS ARE REMOVED. AND BY NATURE, BY CONSEQUENCE, THEY ARE RELATED. BUT BY CONTENT THEY ARE NOT VERY MUCH RELATED. IT MIGHT BE ADVISABLE, USEFUL TO TAKE UP THE TWO ISSUES DIFFERENTLY.

Q. WAS SECRETARY VANCE ABLE TO GIVE YOU ANY SORT OF A TIME FRAME ON WHEN THE DEFENSE MATTER MIGHT COME BEFORE CONGRESS?

A. I THINK THIS IS A QUESTION THAT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MR. VANCE. I WOULDN'T WANT TO ENGAGE HIM WITH AN ANSWER.

Q. BUT HE WAS ABLE TO GIVE YOU SOME SORT OF AN IDEA?

A. YEAS.

Q. WHAT DID YOU MEAN, SIR, WHEN YOU SAID THE VALUE OF THE DOLLAR ITSELF HAS CHANGED.

A. I MEANT THE PURCHASING CAPACITY OF THE DOLLAR AND THE COST OF THE MILITARY EQUIPMENT THAT WE MAY REQUIRE AS A PART OF THE....

Q. THAT'S WHAT I'M GETTING AT. ARE YOU TRANSLATING (INAUDIBLE) TALKS WITH SECRETARY VANCE INTO HIGHER MILITARY AID NUMBERS?

A. WE JUST MENTIONED THE NEW FACTORS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IF WE MEAN TO ACHIEVE A FRUITFUL....(INAUDIBLE)

Q...THAT YOU NEED THE VALUE OF THAT RAISED; IN OTHER WORDS, IF CONGRESS DOESN'T ACT QUICKLY TO APPROVE WHAT'S ALREADY AGREED

TO YOU WANT THE AMOUNT INCREASED, OR YOU WANT THE AMOUNT INCREASED ANYWAY?

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A. AGAIN, I STRESSED WE PUT THE PROBLEMS AND OUR THINKING ON THE TABLE MUTUALLY. AFTER ALL, WE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY IN A BRIEF PERIOD OF DISCUSSION, TALKING ABOUT ALMOST EVERYTHING OF IMPORTANCE IN THE WORLD.

WE DIDN'T DISCUSS SOLUTIONS; WE MENTIONED CERTAIN ALTERNATIVE POSSIBILITIES WHICH I WOULDN'T LIKE TO DWELL UPON AT THIS STAGE BEFORE

WE FOLLOW UP ON THE DISCUSSIONS.

Q. YOU DO WANT THE AMOUNT INCREASED?

A. I'D LIKE TO PUT IT THIS WAY. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT DURING THE TWO YEARS THAT HAVE PASSED OR ALMOST TWO YEARS THAT HAVE PASSED SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE DCA, TURKEY'S DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS HAVE NOT RPT NOT DECREASED BUT INCREASED.

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Q. WHAT I'M TRYING TO GET IS THERE A LENGTH BETWEEN THE
RUNING OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON IT,...

A. NOT NECESAARILY.

Q. MR. PRIME MINISTER, YOU SAID EARLIER THAT YOU DISSOCIATE
THE CYRPRUS ISSUE FROM THE DCA. DOES MR. VANCE SHARE THAT VIEW? DOES
THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AGREE?

A. I GOT THE IMPRESSION, YES. AT LEAST HE SEEMS TO ACCEPT THE
REASONABLENESS OF DISSOCIATING IT. IT'S A DIFFERENT MATTER WHETHER
IN THE PRACTICE OF AMERICAN POLITICS IT'S POSSIBLE OR NOT, BUT HE

SEEMS TO APPRECIATE THAT THE TWO ISSUES SHOULD BE DISSOCIATED.

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Q. WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEW INITIATIVE ON CYPRUS, IS TURKEY CONSIDERING REDUCING SIGNIFICANTLY ITS NUMBER OF TROOPS THERE?

A. OUT TURKISH ARMY UNITS ARE NOT IN CYPRUS AS AN ADVANCING FORCE. THEY ARE THERE TO INSURE THE SECUTIY OF THE TURKS LIVING THERE. ONCE THEIR SECUTITY IS INSURED BY OTHERMMEANS, BU THE AGREEMENT TO BE REACHED, BY THE NEW STATUS TO BE GIVEN TO THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF CYPRUS, CERTAINLY MORE REDUCTIONS CAN BE MADE. IN ANY CASE REDUCTIONS ARE BEING MADE.

Q. I NOTICED IN THE TURKISH PRESS THAT THERE IS SPECUALTION ABOUT PROPOSALS TO CHAGNGE THE FEDERAL CAPITAL IN CYPRUS FROM NICOSIA TO THE FAMAGUSTA AREA,

A. WE HAVE NOT DISCUSSED THESE DETAILS AT ALL WITH MR.DENKTAS IN SPECIFIC TERMS. WE DISCUSSED THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF THE MOVES THAT HE MAY BE ABLE TO MAKE WHILE HE TAKES THE INITIATIVE, WE DON'T WANT LENGTHYBARGAININGS; THERE'S NO TIME FOR THAT. MORE THAN ENOUGH TIME HAS BEEN LOST ALREADY. BUT THERE SHOULD CERTAINLY BE REASONABLE DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY IN OUR APPROACH TO LEAVE ROOM FOR MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS.

Q. I WONDER IF YOU DISCUSSED THE HORN OF AFRICA AND THESOVIET SHIPMENT OF WEAPONS....

A. MR. VANCE, DURING HIS REVIEW OF THE WORLD SIUTATION, HAS KINDLY TOLD US HIS IMPRESSIONS ABOUT THE HORN.

Q. I WONDER IF YOU COULD COMMENT ON THE PRESS REPORTS THAT THE SOVIET AIRLIFT IS FLYING IN PART OVER TURKISH TERRITORY.

A. I'M NOT AT THIS STAGE SUFFICIENTLY WELL INFORMED TO COMMENT IN A RESPONSIBLE WAY.

Q. DO YOU SHARE THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S OPTIMISM THAT A SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND ON CYPRUS BY THE END OF THE YEAR?

A. WELL, OBVIOUSLY I HAVE THE FEELING THAT THE OPTIMISM THAT MR. WALDHEIM EXPRESSED WAS BASED ON THE IMPRESSION THAT HE RECEIVED FROM HIS CONTACTS WITH US ADND WITH MR. DENKTAS, BUT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT HIS IMPRESSIONS AFTER HE TALKED WITH THE GREEK CYPRIOTS AND WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN ATHENS. CERTAINLY A MUTUALLY AGREED SOLUTION CANNOT BE

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REACHED BY CONSTRUCTIVE STEPS FROM ONE SIDE ONLY; IT WILL DEPEND UPON THE GREEKATTITUDE.

Q. CAN YOU REALISTICALLY BELIEVE THAT THERE CAN BE SOME KIND OF POSITIVE ACTION ON THE DEFENSE COOPERATION ARRANGEMENT UNTIL THERE IS PROGRESS ON CYPRUS, APART FROM YOUR HOPES, YOUR DISSOCIATION?

A. (PAUSE) I HOPE SO.

Q. WILL THE EXPLORATION THAT WHICH TOOK PLACE HERE BE FOLLOWED BY A TRIP BY YOU TO WASHINGTON?

A. WE HAVE'T DISCUSSED THESE DETAILS AT ALL. WE HAVEN'T DISCUSSED AT WHAT STAGE THE FOLLOWUP TALKS MAY TAKE PLACE. WE WILL DISCUSS THAT IN A FEW DAYS, PERHAPS.

Q. AND HOW ABOUT YOU MEETING WITH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT LEADERS? DO YOU PLAN TANT, AND WHERE?

A. I HAVE ALWAYS SUGGESTED, IN '74 OR SO AND MORE RECENTLY, THAT WE REGARD HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE NOT ONLY USEFUL BUT ESSENTIAL IF WE WANT TO REACH SOMEWHERE FIRST. NO MATTER HOW CAPABLE AND WELL INTENTIONED BUREAUCRATS MAY BE, THEY CAN'T REACH ANYWHERE UNLESS RESPONSIBLE POLITICIANS GIVE DIRECTIVES AND OBJECTIVES, AND THIS CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED AT HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE. I THINK IT'S AN ANOMALY THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN INTERRUPTION OF SUCH DIALOGUES EXCEPT FROM ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS IN CERTAIN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS, ETC. THERE HAS NOT BEEN A REAL DIALOGUE AT THAT HIGH LEVEL FOR TOO LONG, BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, WHICH ARE NEIGHBORS AND WHICH ARE SUPPOSED TO BE ALLIES. I SHALL REGARD IT AS VERY USEFUL IF SUCH A DIALOGUE COULD BE ESTABLISHED.

Q. WOULD YOU CONSIDER INVITING PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS HERE?

A. I WOULDN'T INSIST ON THE FORM AND PLACE OF SUCH A DIALOGUE. I WOULD RATHER LEAVE IT TO HIM.

Q. IS THERE ANY USEFUL ROLE THAT THE UNITED STATES OR THAT MR. VANCE CAN PLAY IN HELPING SOLVE THE CYPRUS DISPUTE?

A. BY RETAINING THEIR POSITION OF EQUIDISTANCE IN UNITED STATES' RELATIONS WITH TURKEY AND GREECE.

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Q. BUT FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT IS YOUR THOUGHT ABOUT ANOTHER
MISSION BY MR. CLIFFORD OR SOMEBODY ELSE?

A. NOT IN CONNECTION WITH THE CYPRUS ISSUE, I WOULDN'T
RECOMMEND THAT. I HAVE GREAT RESPECT FOR MR. CLIFFORD;
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT MR. CLIFFORD OR ABOUT ANYONE ELSE.
BUT NO OTHER COUNTRY SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN TH CYPRUS
ISSUE OR IN THE AEGEAN ISSUE. THAT WOULD MAKE THINGS MORE
DIFFICULT.

Q. WHY?
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A. BECAUSE THERE IS ALREADY AN OBVIOUS TREND -- THERE HAS
BEEN FOR SOME TIME -- TO INTERNATIONALIZE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.
ONCE SUCH A PROBLEM IS INTERNATIONALIZED, COUNTRIES WITH
DIFFERENT INTERESTS AND CONCERNS WOULD COME IN, AND IT
WOULD COMPLICATE THE MATTER. WE HAVE AN HISTORIC EXPERIENCE:
WHENEVER TURKS AND GREEKS WERE LEFT ALONE TO SOLVE THEIR
DISPUTES, THEIR PROBLEMS, THEY HAVE SHOWN GREAT ABILITY TO
DO SO, EVEN AT THE MOST DIFFICULT OF TIMES. BUT WHENEVER
GREECE WAS ABLE TO RELY ON THE SUPPORT OF OTHERS DURING
HER EFFORTS TO SETTLE HER PROBLEMS WITH TURKEY OR OUR
COMMON PROBLEMS, WE HAVE ENDED UP IN DISPUTE AND SOMETIMES
IN CONFLICT.

I COULD GIVE YOU SOME EXAMPLES. AFTER THE TURKISH-GREEK WAR
OF THE EARLY '20'S, THE WORLD WAS TOO BUSY WITH ITS OWN
POST-WORLD WAR ONE PROBLEMS AND LEFT US ALONE, AND SOON
AFTER THE TURKISH-GREEK WAR, IN SPITE OF ITS PSYCHOLOGICAL
RESIDUES, TURKEY AND GREECE WERE ABLE TO (INAUDIBLE) EXCELLENT
RELATIONS UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF ATATURK AND VENIZELOS
AND COOPERATION. AGAIN SOON AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR, WHEN
OTHER WERE OCCUPIED WITH THEIR OWN PROBLEMS, WE WERE LEFT
ALONE AND WE WERE ABLE TO ESTABLISH EXCELLENT RELATIONS AND
COOPERATION. BUT WHENEVER GREECE FEELS IN A POSITION TO RELY
ON AN OUTSIDER'S SUPPORT AGAINST TURKEY, SHE SEEMS TO ADOPT
A RATHER RIGID AND INTRANSIGENT AND SOMETIMES
EVEN AGGRESSIVE ATTITUDE, WHICH RENDERS SATISFACTORY SOLU-
TIONS VERY DIFFICULT.

Q. IS THIS BECAUSE GREECE RELIES ON THE SO-CALLED GREEK LOBBY?

A. THIS IS AT LEAST ONE POSSIBLE REASON.

Q. THERE'S CONCERN IN NATO THAT TURKEY'S COMMITMENT TO THE WEST MAY NOT BE AS STEADFAST AS IT'S BEEN AND THAT IT'S ADOPTING A NEUTRALIST POSITION, EVEN LOOKING TO SUCH UNUSUAL SOURCES AS LIBYA FOR ALLIANCES AND FOR MILITARY AND FINANCIAL AID. ARE THOSE CONCERNS WELL FOUNDED?
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A. IF I WERE A QUESTIONING JOURNALIS ASKING A QUESTION IN THAT LINE TO A TURKISH PREMIER I WOULD SAY, 'DON'T YOU FEEL SOME DETERIORATION IN THE COMMITMENT S OF THE WEST, THE NATO ALLIES, TO TURKEY?' WHICH IS THE CASE. TURKEY IS SITUATED IN SUCH A CRITICAL PART OF THE WORLD, GEOPOLITICALLY, THAT SHE SIMPLY CANNOT AFFORD TO LET HER SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS BE SUSPENDED FORTOO LONG. THEY HAVE REMAINED SUSPENDED FOR TOO LONG ALREADY. BUT IN SPITE OF THAT WE HAVE NEVER EVEN INDICATED -- MY PARTY, FOR INSTANCE, WHILE IN OPPOSITION HAS NEVER INDICATED THAT WE WANTED TO RETIRE FROM NATO, OR FROM THE MILITARY WING OF NATO, AS GREECE DID IN A VAGUE SORT OF WAY. WE TREAT THESE MATTERS IN TOO RESPONSIBLE A WAY TO USE IT AS IF YOU'LL ALLOW ME THE EXPRESSION, TO USE IT AS A KIND OF BLACKMAIL. IF NATO STILL HAS A FUNCTION TO PERFORM, AND IT DOES, AS A COMPONENT OF THE DELICATE BALANCE ON WHICH DETENTE IS BASED, WE WILL BE WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE TO IT, BUT TO THE EXTENT THAT WE CAN AFFORD, AND OBVIOUSLY TURKEY HAS CONTRIBUTED MORE THAN HER RIGHTFUL SHARE. THE PERCENTAGE TURKEY AS ALLOCATED TO DEFENSE, BECAUSE OF HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO COLLECTIVE SECURITY, THE PERCENTAGE TO THEBUDGET, TO THE NATIONAL INCOME, HAS BEEN FAR HIGHER THAN ANY OTHER NATO COUNTRY'S, SOMETIMES INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES. IN THE ECONOMIC SITUATION THAT WE FIND OURSELVES, THIS IS RATHER DIFFICULT TO CARRY ON.
(END TRANSCRIPT)
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SECSTATE VANCE'S
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